

OF THOMAS JEFFERSON

thought him an honest, frank-dealing- man, but considered him as a crooked gun, or other perverted machine whose aim or stroke you could never be sure of. Still, while he possessed the confidence of the nation, I thought it rny duty to respect in him their confidence, and to treat him as if he deserved it."

The hearing on the indictment of Burr began on the date set. Richmond was crowded with men attracted thither by a variety of motives. Most of them made *no*- concealment of sympathy with Burr, and every social and class influence was exerted in his favor. The course of the Chief Justice alarmed all Republicans. Still refusing to commit Burr for treason, he granted the motion of Burr's counsel, and issued a subpoena calling for the presence of the President as a witness in the case. Jefferson had hitherto borne the insults and sneers of Luther Martin, Burr's leading counsel, with something like patience, but this ruling- of Marshall stirred him to anger. He defied the summons of the court, basing his refusal to obey it upon the fundamental independence of the three departments of government. In the first flush of his resentment he wished to have Luther Martin committed as *particeps criminis* with Burr. Nothing, however, was done in this direction.

A new source of irritation now arose. Gen. Wilkinson came on from the West to take the stand as the chief witness for the prosecution. The world knew that Wilkinson had long been engaged with Burr, had been the recipient of his confidence, and had basely used this intimacy to ingratiate himself with the government. He was the object of universal loathing at Richmond. Yet Jefferson was forced to stand sponsor for him, On the witness stand Wilkinson was worse than useless to Jefferson. John Randolph, of Roanoke, was foreman of the grand jury. Bitterly as he hated Jefferson, as between Jefferson and Burr he was for aiding the former; but when Jefferson stooped to rely on Wilkinson, Randolph's aid was at an end. With Burr's counsel he was for indicting Wilkinson along with Burr, but his effort to do this failed. Burr alone was indicted on a charge of treason, and his trial was set for August 3rd. Thus far